

General Chemistry Study Tips

1. Attend Every General Chemistry Lecture
Read the text material before lecture and take thorough lecture notes. As soon as possible after lecture, rewrite and/or review your notes, rework example problems, and write notes to yourself in the margins.
2. Attend Every Chemistry Support Course Session
New material will be covered each week. If you miss a week there will be a gap in your preparation!
3. Read the Textbook
Do the assigned reading in an active, not a passive fashion. Always read the book with paper and pencil ready. **Work through example problems as they arise**, and do some sample exercises in each section. Make notes on material that you want to ask questions about later.
4. Begin the Problem Sets as Soon as They Are Assigned
Aggressively tackle problems after you have reviewed the relevant material. **DO NOT LOOK AT THE SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM (OR A SAMPLE PROBLEM LIKE IT) UNTIL YOU HAVE WORKED ON IT SERIOUSLY (PERHAPS FOR AS MUCH AS 20 MINUTES)!** The best preparation for Chemistry exams is working problems through to their completion and then being able to work through other problems without having to refer to your notes or the text.
5. Utilize Tutor and TA Office Hours Productively
Attend office hours regularly, maybe once per week. Please keep in mind that the tutors and TAs are there to help you work through problems, not to give you the answers. Diligently try to solve problems before asking for assistance. Bring your work to the help session so that someone can show you where you went wrong. Whenever possible, support people will ask you questions to help you solve the problem.
6. Begin Preparing for Exams Early
Keep your notes organized, your quizzes handy, and constantly review material. Index cards with important formulas and information may be helpful. You can pull them out to review them at any time.
7. **STUDY, STUDY, STUDY**
You should be spending approximately 3 - 4 hours of study time for every hour you spend in class, not counting laboratories. Therefore, plan to spend around six to nine hours (some weeks more) on General Chemistry each week.

If you work hard and utilize all of your resources,
Chemistry will be a pleasant and successful experience for you!!!